

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A method of performing a medical procedure is disclosed which involves the use of a balloon catheter in combination with an angioscope to monitor an intravascular stent before, during or after deploying the stent.

- 5 Specifically, the method may include the steps of (1) delivering an intravascular stent into the vasculature of a patient, (2) positioning a balloon catheter in the vasculature such that the inflatable balloon is adjacent the stent, (3) inserting an angioscope into the balloon catheter such that the distal end of the angioscope is adjacent an optically-transparent tube traversing the interior of the balloon, and
- 10 (4) visually monitoring the stent before, during or after deploying the intravascular stent. The optically-transparent tube may define a guide wire lumen for use with a guide wire and the angioscope may be inserted into the guide wire lumen. The intravascular stent may be a balloon-expandable stent, a self-expanding stent, or a stent made of a photo-responsive polymer.

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